

Remarks

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-19 and 21-40 are allowed. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over Gray in view of Emerson in further view of Sears.

In response, Claim 20 has been amended to claim an interval identification signal “that identifies a present reading cycle for the data from the meter with a unique signal width of the interval identification signal, where the unique signal width comprises a multiple of a signal cycle width”. This language mirrors the language for similar elements in the other independent claims that now stand allowed. Additionally, Claim 21 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, the claim has been amended to properly claim dependency to independent claim 20.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, all outstanding rejections of the pending claims have been overcome. Consequently, a favorable action in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Please apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account #: 50-4293, Reference #: N2215-84536.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>/davidmixon/</u>	<u>07/09/2008</u>
David E. Mixon	Date
Reg. No. 43,809	

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP
200 Clinton Ave. West, Suite 900
Huntsville, AL 35801-4900

Telephone: (256) 517-5178
Facsimile: (256) 517-5200